

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 23, 2004, claims 1- 20 are pending and all claims are rejected. Reconsideration is requested for at least the reasons discussed hereinbelow.

Objection is made to the Drawings for reasons stated by the examiner. An amendment to Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16 is submitted herewith to correct inconsistencies between the specification and the Drawings. It is respectfully submitted that the proposed amendment renders the objection moot. Entry of the replacement pages of drawings is requested.

A formal Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith.

A new Abstract is submitted having only 149 words. A copy of the Abstract can be found as a separate page at the end of this document.

The specification has been amended to refer to identification numbers 171 and 180, which are used in the drawings. No new matter is added. The amendment is supported by Figs. 5-7 as originally submitted.

Objection is made to the specification because of the use of the term "valve seat" which is identified in the drawings by identification number 161. Applicants respectfully submit that this terminology is what Applicants use in the field. Therefore, Applicants request that this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding claim 1 language reciting "the lower end having in conjunction with the key-way a cavity of predetermined shape" and in claim 2, the language "an internal bore extending lengthwise therein," the examiner states "[a]ren't these the same thing?" The simple answer is no. The key-way (e.g., 560 in the FIGs. 5, 7; 1602 in FIG. 140) is formed by the slot in the wall of the valve t-stem, ending in a circular opening. The valve t-stem could be solid except for the key-way. The additional language in claim 1 provides for a cavity at the end of the valve t-stem (e.g., 555 in FIG. 5) in conjunction with the key-way. The additional language in claim 2 provides for the valve t-stem to have a cylindrical bore throughout the valve t-stem; see, e.g., 1601 in FIG. 16 (replacement sheet) and corresponding description in the specification.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Mohn (US 5,657,790). Mohn **fails** to teach or suggest a valve for a pressurized container with **a t-stem having a lower end with a key-way**, as claimed herein. The Mohn valve merely has a bore opening in the t-stem, in which the valve seat is snapped. However, because it does not have the presently claimed key-way in the t-stem, the snap fit is not tight and the valve seat can separate from the t-stem when the t-stem is turned to open the valve. In the present invention, because of the key-way in the t-stem, the valve seat can fit tightly in the t-stem because the key-way provides flexibility to position the valve seat in the t-stem before it is assembled in the valve housing. Once in the valve housing, the valve seat cannot slip out of the t-stem in the present invention.

Claims 8, 9 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Mohn in view of Betz (US 5,992,440). Mohn is described above. Betz **fails** to make up for the deficiencies of Mohn. Betz also **fails** to teach or suggest a valve for a pressurized container with a **t-stem having a lower end with a key-way**, as claimed herein.

Therefore, it is not seen how the present invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art in view of the any combination of Mohn and Betz.

In view of the amendments and discussion above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. an early reconsideration and notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

If for any reason a fee is required, a fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

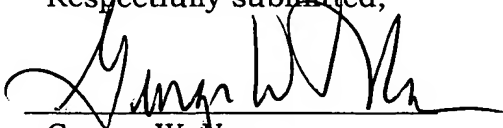
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Amendments to the Drawings

Please amend Figures 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 16 as circled in red on copies of the replacement drawing pages and enter the replacement pages of drawings.